

S.O. 30

because the introduction of two visitors has taken place another question might be appropriate in order to make sure that Question Period goes as long as it should go, he will allow for that. That is what the Speaker does. If the Hon. Member has a concern about Question Period, I would welcome hearing about it; but I would suggest that he make that concern known through the normal procedures. I assure Hon. Members that I appreciate the importance of Question Period and I am perfectly happy to discuss it at any time. I invite the Hon. Member to see me about the matter.

Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: I would advise the Hon. Member that if it is the same point of order, I will not hear it.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, I am sure you are aware of the maxim that justice must not only be done but must appear to be done. I would ask Your Honour to indicate the reason that a Conservative Member was allowed to make a statement pursuant to Standing Order 21 when it was clearly beyond the hour of 11.15?

Mr. Speaker: Because my clock showed 11.14 and a half.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 30

INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Speaker: I have received an application from the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) under Standing Order 30.

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, if I may briefly explain why I gave Your Honour notice about the intention to move a motion for an emergency debate, we have learned today that unemployment has increased in our country by over 167,000 in one month. That is the largest increase on a monthly basis in five years. Yesterday we saw a record drop in the Canadian dollar and a major increase in interest rates. In short, Your Honour, these various indicators, as well as the composite index which is forecasting continuing problems in the months ahead, show that we clearly have an economic crisis before us that should be debated in this House. If you so rule, Your Honour, I would be prepared to move the appropriate motion under the appropriate Standing Order.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Oshawa gave me notice of his application for an emergency debate. Standing Order 30 provides a procedure for "discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration". As I pointed out when ruling on a similar application only the other day what is envisaged is a sudden emergency of such importance that the

national interest calls for its immediate consideration by the House. One of the factors which must be taken into account is "urgency of debate" as distinct from the importance of the issue itself.

• (1220)

Standing Order 30(5) requires the Speaker to have regard to "the probability of the matter being brought before the House within a reasonable time by other means". Four Allotted Days remain during the current supply period and the subject could be chosen for debate on one of those days. In fact, I am given to understand that there is an Allotted Day available for that purpose next week.

I say that recognizing full well with the Hon. Member and other Members that unemployment is a terrible problem which is likely to be an ongoing issue of deep concern. The fact that we have the greatest monthly increase in unemployment in more than four years is sincerely regrettable and must be a source of worry to all. An aggravation of this problem is always a serious matter. While the single increase in the unemployment rate would not justify the Chair in allowing an application for an emergency debate, that is not to say that more than one such jump might not constitute the basis for such a debate.

In the circumstances, I must therefore find that the Hon. Member's application does not meet the requirements of Standing Order 30 at present.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Paul Dick (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 127 and 185.

[Text]

NEELON STEEL, SUDBURY, ONT.

Question No. 127—**Mr. Rodriguez:**

1. Has Neelon Steel's Sudbury plant received either a federal grant or forgivable loan to conduct its expansion work and, if so, in what amount?
2. Since 1979, what was the total amount of grants or loans received by Neelon Steel?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): 1. No. 2. Nil.

CANADA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNESCO

Question No. 185—**Mr. Stackhouse:**

1. In (a) 1980 (b) 1981 (c) 1982 (d) 1983, what was Canada's contributions to UNESCO?
2. For the same years, what was this expenditure as a percentage of the total Canadian contribution to the United Nations?